

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-1WASHINGTON POST
6 September 1985

Waiting in Honduras

Nicaraguans Fleeing War and Draft Form Support Base for Guerrillas

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Washington Post Foreign Service

TEUPASENTI, Honduras—Tens of thousands of Nicaraguans are living in bleak refugee camps or shabby farmhouses here in southern Honduras after fleeing the war, the draft or what they call government repression across the border in their native country.

Poor Nicaraguan farm families, who account for most of the refugees, form the largest clearly identifiable base of civilian support for the Nicaraguan antigovernment guerrillas known as contras, or counterrevolutionaries. Many peasants here have relatives fighting with the Nicaraguan Demo-

cratic Force, or FDN, which is the largest contra group and has semi-clandestine bases nearby.

Rebel commanders regularly visit the camps in search of recruits, and informers among the civilians keep an eye out for Sandinista infiltrators, who occasionally are turned over to Honduran military intelligence, refugees said.

"We support the FDN. A victory by them is the only way that we have to return to Nicaragua," Roger Angel, a self-taught veterinarian from Nicaragua's northern Nueva Segovia province, said in the United Nations-sponsored refugee camp here.

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